Atty Docket No. 22167-7

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application	) PATENT APPLICATION
Inventor(s): WILLIAMS, et al.	)
Application No.: 09/664,026 (644 C26 Wrong per #)	) Art Unit: 3732
Filed: August 22, 2000	) Examiner: PRIDDY, M.
Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR INTERVERTEBRAL IMPLANT ANCHORAGE	)

3-6-02
8/B

AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed August 1, 2001. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the accompanying documents and the following amendments and remarks.

In the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on page 1, beginning on line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

B1

The human spine is a flexible structure comprised of thirty-three vertebrae. Intervertebral discs separate and cushion adjacent vertebrae, and act as shock absorbers and allow bending between the vertebrae. An intervertebral disc comprises two major components: the nucleus pulposus and the annulus fibrosis. The nucleus pulposus is centrally located in the disc and occupies 25-40% of the disc's total cross-sectional area. The annulus fibrosis surrounds the nucleus pulposus and resist torsional and bending force applied to the disc. Vertebral end-plates separate the disc from the vertebrae on either side of the disc.